

Atty. Dkt. No.: 14917.1

Title: ADJUSTABLE FENCE RAIL SUPPORTING AND POSITIONING
ASSEMBLY AND METHOD FOR USING THE ASSEMBLY

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CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to Provisional Patent Application No. 60/395,063 filed 7/12/2002 entitled "Fence Post, Standard and Bracket for Flexible Rail Materials" and to Provisional Patent Application No. 60/458,613 filed 3/31/2003 also entitled "Fence Post, Standard and Bracket for Flexible Rail Materials."

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to an adjustable fence rail supporting and positioning assembly and a method for using the assembly. More specifically, the invention relates to an assembly for adjustably supporting and positioning a fence rail at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation and at a user-selected, user-modifiable angle.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Common techniques for positioning and supporting a fence rail during assembly of a fence are well known. In typical practice, a plurality of fence posts are positioned, each with a lower portion thereof in the ground. Fence rails are then mounted between and to the fence posts by fasteners, the fasteners frequently being screws, bolts, nails or other like mechanical fasteners which are driven, screwed or otherwise inserted through the fence rail.

The formation of a fence and particularly the connecting, positioning and supporting of the fence rails against the fence posts can frequently be a labor-intensive and time-consuming process requiring use of multiple tools. Moreover, a fence rail, once mounted to a fence post using typical means, may be difficult to remove and re-position at a different angle or elevation. Indeed, repeated installation and removal of the same

fence post may, in common practice, puncture, damage or deface the fence rail and even the connected fence posts. Yet further, removal and repositioning of a fence rail, even where possible, is often a labor-intensive and time-consuming process requiring use of multiple tools.

5 There accordingly exists a need for an invention which facilitates rapid, efficient, sturdy, yet easily-modifiable connection and positioning of fence rails along a fence by even a relatively unskilled user at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation and at a user-selected, user-modifiable angle. A need additionally exists for an invention which accomplishes the foregoing purposes without need of tools or additional fasteners and
10 without damage to the fence post or attached fence rails. The assembly and method of the present invention address those needs.

 The present invention has particular utility when used in formation of wind fences and snow fences. The porosity of such fences, i.e., that percentage of the total area beneath a top of a top fence rail and above a top surface of the ground, earth or
15 accumulated snow beneath the fence rail where prevailing wind, or snow driven by prevailing wind encounters no fence rail is an important feature. Fences with too little porosity may be damaged or overturned, while fences with too much porosity provide an ineffective barrier and, consequently, ineffective wind or snow control. Various preferred embodiments of the invention are accordingly designed to position, support and space
20 fence rails having a generally uniform and preselected width in a configuration promoting optimum fence porosity.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of this invention to provide an adjustable fence rail supporting and positioning assembly and a method for using the assembly. More specifically, it is an object of this invention to provide an assembly for adjustably supporting and positioning a fence rail at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation and at a user-selected, user-modifiable angle. The assembly includes: A slotted member containing a plurality of uniformly-sized and uniformly-shaped slots spaced at regular intervals along its length and a bracket member including (1) a handle, (2) a first slot-engaging portion detachably insertable into a first slot among the plurality of slots, (3) a second slot-engaging portion detachably insertable into a second slot among the plurality of slots while the first slot-engaging portion occupies the first slot, and (4) a fence rail contacting portion with a fence rail contacting surface. In various embodiments, the bracket member may additionally include at least one ancillary fence rail support and engagement member.

Another object of this invention is to provide an assembly and method in accordance with the preceding paragraph which facilitates rapid, efficient, sturdy, yet easily modifiable connection and positioning of a fence rail along a fence by even a relatively unskilled user at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation and at an user-selected, user-modifiable angle.

Another object of this invention is to provide an assembly in accordance with the preceding objects which can be engaged with a fence rail and disengaged therefrom without puncturing, damaging or defacing the fence rail engaged.

Another object of this invention is to provide an assembly in accordance with the preceding objects wherein the elevation and angle of a fence rail positioned and supported along a fence can be easily modified without need of tools, additional fasteners and without damage to either the fence post or the fence rail connected thereto.

5 Another object of this invention is to provide an assembly with the stability, ease and simplicity of an invention having a minimal number of component parts.

Another object of various embodiments of the present invention is to provide an assembly and method in accordance with the preceding objects wherein the plurality of slots are spaced to allow fence rails supported and positioned thereby to be easily spaced in a configuration that allows optimum fence porosity.

10 Another object of this invention is to provide an adjustable fence rail supporting and positioning assembly in accordance with the preceding objects which will conform to conventional forms of manufacture, be of comparatively simple construction and easy to use so as to provide an assembly that will be economically feasible, durable and relatively free of trouble in use.

15 These together with the other objects and advantages of the invention which will become subsequently apparent reside in the details of construction and operation as more fully hereinafter described and claimed, reference being had to the accompanying drawings forming a part hereof, wherein like numerals refer to like parts and portions throughout.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 is a partially exploded perspective view illustrating six bracket members of the assembly of the present invention and two slotted members of the assembly of the present invention, shown supporting and positioning three fence rails.

5 Figure 2 is a perspective view of a portion of a slotted member of the present invention and a bracket member of the present invention shown with a portion of a fence rail positioned between the slotted member and the bracket member.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of an embodiment of the bracket member of the present invention.

10 Figure 4 is a perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the bracket member of the present invention.

Figure 5 is a side plan view of the embodiment of the bracket member of Figure 4.

Figure 6 is a sectional view of the slotted member of the present invention taken through line 6-6 of Figure 1.

15 Figure 7 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the slotted member of the present invention.

Figure 8 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the slotted member of the present invention.

20 Figure 9 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the slotted member of the present invention and the bracket member of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Figure 2 illustrates a preferred embodiment of an adjustable fence rail supporting and positioning assembly, the assembly comprising at least a slotted member **15** and at least a bracket member **20**. In standard use, the assembly is used to support and position a fence rail **25** as illustrated in Figure 1.

Referring to Figures 1, 2 and 9, a slotted member **15** of a preferred embodiment of the assembly contains a plurality of uniformly-sized and uniformly-shaped slots **30** spaced at regular intervals along a length of the slotted member **15** and disposed through a frontal portion **15A** of the slotted member **15**. Each slot among the plurality of slots **30** is preferably disposed parallel to other slots among the plurality of slots **30**. In preferred embodiments of the slotted member **15**, the distance between an edge of a slot most proximate a most proximate edge of a closest, neighboring slot is equivalent for each slot among the plurality of slots **30**. In standard use, the plurality of slots **30** accordingly allow for detachable connection of the bracket member **20** at a variety of locations along the vertical dimension of the slotted member **15**.

With attention directed to Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9, it is seen that the bracket member **20** of the assembly includes: (1) a handle portion **20A** gripped by a user during removal and connection of the bracket member **20** to the slotted member **15**; (2) a first slot-engaging portion **20B** detachably insertable into a first slot **30A** among the plurality of slots **30** in the slotted member **15** as best indicated in Figures 2 and 9; (3) a second slot-engaging portion **20C** detachably insertable into a second slot **30B** among the plurality of slots **30** in the slotted member **15** as best indicated in Figures 2 and 9, the

second slot-engaging portion **20C** being spaced at a predetermined distance from the first slot-engaging portion **20B** such that the second slot-engaging portion **20C** may be detachably inserted into the second slot **30B** while the first slot-engaging portion **20B** occupies the first slot **30A**; and (4) a fence rail contacting portion **20D** having a fence rail contacting surface **20E** thereon. In the embodiment shown in Figures 2, 4 and 5, the bracket member **20** additionally includes at least one ancillary fence rail support and engagement member **20F**.

Referring primarily to Figures 1, 2 and 9, the first slot-engaging portion **20B** and the second slot-engaging portion **20C** of the bracket member **20** are insertable into any slot among the plurality of slots **30** and allow for a firm, sturdy yet detachable connection to be formed between the bracket member **20** and the slotted member **15** at a variety of locations along the vertical dimension of the slotted member **15**. A user may selectively attach the bracket member **20** to the slotted member **15** at any location among said variety of locations and may thereby form a firm, stable yet detachable connection to clasp, support and position the fence rail **25** against the slotted member **15** at a user-selected elevation without puncturing, damaging or defacing the fence rail **25**. By selecting the respective elevations of a plurality of bracket members **20**, **20'** connected to a plurality of slotted members **15**, **15'** clasping the same fence rail **25** (as shown in Fig. 1), a user may also select and control the angle of the fence rail clasped, supported and positioned by the plurality of bracket members **20**, **20'** against the plurality of slotted members **15**, **15'**. The invention accordingly functions to provide an assembly for clasping, supporting and

positioning the fence rail **25** at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation and at a user-selected, user-modifiable angle.

To facilitate performance of the functions noted in the preceding sentence, the bracket member **20** is designed to easily insert into the slotted member **15** and thereby form a firm, stable yet detachable connection between the bracket member **20** and the slotted member **15**. Referring to Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9, the first slot-engaging portion **20B** comprises a first tab disposed away from a remainder of the bracket member **20**. Width of the first slot-engaging portion **20B** preferably corresponds with a horizontal dimension of each slot among the plurality of slots **30** in the slotted member **15**, allowing for a snug connection when the first slot-engaging portion **20B** is inserted into the first slot **30A**. A maximum length of the first slot-engaging portion **20B** exceeds a maximum vertical dimension of each slot among the plurality of slots **30** in the slotted member **15**. Thus, after initial angular insertion of the first slot-engaging portion **20B** into the first slot **30A** and subsequent movement of the bracket member **20** while inserted in the first slot **30A** to a position generally parallel to the slotted member **15**, the first slot-engaging portion **20B** is retained against an interior surface **15B** of the slotted member **15** with a surface of the bracket member **20** contacting a first support surface **15G** (Fig. 2) of the slotted member **15** bordering a bottom of the first slot **30A** and being supported thereby.

The firm, yet detachable connection between the bracket member **20** and the slotted member **15** is facilitated not only by the first slot-engaging portion **20B** but also by the second slot-engaging portion **20C** of the bracket member **20**. Referring to Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9, preferred embodiments of the second slot-engaging portion **20C** include a

second tab disposed away from a remainder of the bracket member **20**. The second slot-engaging portion **20C** is spaced at a predetermined distance from the first slot-engaging portion **20B** such that the second slot-engaging portion **20C** is detachably insertable into a second slot **30B** among the plurality of slots **30** while the first slot-engaging portion **20B** occupies the first slot **30A** among the plurality of slots **30**. Width of the second slot-engaging portion **20C** preferably corresponds with a horizontal dimension of each slot among the plurality of slots **30** in the slotted member **15**, facilitating snug connection when the second slot-engaging portion **20C** is inserted into the second slot **30B**.

Preferably, the second slot-engaging portion **20C** does not exceed in length any slot among the plurality of slots **30** and may thus be detachably inserted into the second slot **30B** among the plurality of slots **30** while the first slot-engaging portion **20B** occupies the first slot **30A**. Referring to Figures 2 and 9, the second slot-engaging portion **20C** is retained after insertion into the second slot **30B** against the interior surface **15B** of the slotted member **15**, with a surface of the bracket member **20** contacting a second support surface **15H** of the slotted member **15** bordering a bottom of the second slot **30B** and being supported thereby.

Referring further to Figures 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9, the bracket member **20** includes a fence rail contacting portion **20D** having a fence rail contacting surface **20E** thereon. The fence rail contacting surface **20E** of the fence rail contacting portion **20D** functions to contact and engage the fence rail **25** as the fence rail **25** is positioned and supported by the bracket member **20** against the slotted member **15**.

Referring to Figures 2, 4 and 5, the bracket member **20** in the embodiment shown additionally includes at least one ancillary fence rail support and engagement member **20F**. The ancillary fence rail support and engagement member **20F** functions to provide more complete engagement of, and contact with the fence rail **25** by the bracket member **20**, particularly in circumstances where the fence rail **25** presents an uneven face to be engaged and contacted by the bracket member **20**. The ancillary fence rail support and engagement member **20F** functions not only to extend the bracket member **20** so that the bracket member **20** may contact recessed portions **25B** (Fig. 2) in the uneven face of the fence rail **25** but to also contact, engage and provide support to protruding portions **25C** (Fig. 2) of the uneven face of the fence rail **25** by contacting the protruding portions **25C** of the fence rail **25** from beneath. In the embodiment shown in Figures 2, 4 and 5, the ancillary fence rail support and engagement member **20F** is circular and thereby presents a convex, curved surface to contact and support protruding portions **25C** of the fence rail **25** at multiple potential angles. The engagement member **20F** is ideal for supporting, positioning and engaging a polymerized fence rail having generally parallel metallic reinforcement cables (not shown) contained therein, running substantially the length thereof and thereby creating protruding portions **25C** running lengthwise along at least a portion of a length of the fence rail **25**, though said engagement member's **20F** utility is not limited to use with polymerized cable-reinforced fence rails.

Turning to Figures 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9, it is seen that in various embodiments of the invention, the slotted member **15** may comprise a fence post. One embodiment illustrated in Figure 6 includes a hexagonal portion **15I**, a first wing portion **15J** protruding from an

exterior surface of a first wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**, a second wing portion **15K** protruding from an exterior surface of a third wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**, with a fifth wall of the hexagonal portion **15I** containing the frontal portion **15A** and the plurality of slots **30**. In said embodiment, the first wall and the third wall of the hexagonal portion **15I** are connected to, and spaced apart by a second wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**, the second wall connecting at a first end of the second wall to the first wall and connecting at a second end distal the first end of the second wall to the third wall. The third wall and the fifth wall of the hexagonal portion **15I** are similarly connected to, and spaced apart by a fourth wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**, the fourth wall connecting at a first end of the fourth wall to the third wall and connecting at a second end distal said first end of the fourth wall to the fifth wall. The fifth wall and the first wall of the hexagonal portion **15I** are similarly connected to, and spaced apart by a sixth wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**, the sixth wall connecting at a first end of the sixth wall to the fifth wall and connecting at a second end distal the first end of the sixth wall to the first wall.

Referring further to the embodiment of the slotted member **15** set forth in Figure 6, a first wing medial wall of the first wing portion **15J** connects to the first wall of the hexagonal portion **15I** and is disposed away from the first wall toward a curved connection with a first wing lateral wall of the first wing portion **15J**, the curved connection being distal from the connection between the first wing medial wall and the first wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**. The first wing lateral wall is disposed from the curved connection with the first wing medial wall toward the first wall of the hexagonal

portion **15I** and connects with an end of the first wall proximate to the sixth wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**. An exterior surface of the first wing lateral wall may actually contact an edge of an exterior surface of the sixth wall, thereby forming a smooth, shared exterior surface between the sixth wall of the hexagonal portion **15I** and the first lateral wall of the first wing portion **15J**.

Referring further to the embodiment shown in Figure 6, a second wing medial wall of the second wing portion **15K** connects to the third wall of the hexagonal portion **15I** and is disposed away from the third wall toward a curved connection with a second wing lateral wall of the second wing portion **15K**, the curved connection being distal from the connection between the second wing medial wall and the third wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**. The second wing lateral wall is disposed from the curved connection with the second wing medial wall toward the third wall of the hexagonal portion **15I** and connects with an end of the third wall proximate to the fourth wall of the hexagonal portion **15I**. An exterior surface of the second wing lateral wall may actually contact an edge of an exterior surface of the fourth wall, thereby forming a smooth, shared exterior surface between the fourth wall and the second lateral wall of the second wing portion **15K**.

The characteristics and structure of the embodiment of the slotted member **15** described above function to economically impart strength and stability. While Figure 6 illustrates one embodiment of the slotted member **15**, it is to be appreciated that said slotted member may take different forms including but not limited to those set forth in Figures 7, 8 and 9.

With attention directed to Figure 8, an alternative embodiment of the slotted member **15** is seen. As in the embodiments shown in Figures 1, 2, 6, 7 and 9, the slotted member **15** of the assembly contains a plurality of uniformly-sized and uniformly-shaped slots **30** spaced at regular intervals along the length of the slotted member **15** and disposed through a frontal portion **15A** of the slotted member. Each slot among the plurality of slots **30** is likewise disposed parallel to other slots among the plurality of slots **30**. Moreover, the distance between an edge of a slot most proximate a most proximate edge of a closest, neighboring slot is likewise preferentially equivalent for each slot among the plurality of slots **30**. In standard use, the plurality of slots **30** accordingly allow for detachable connection of the bracket member **20** at a variety of locations along the vertical dimension of the slotted member **15**. In the alternate embodiment shown in Figure 8, the slotted member **15** is, however, adapted for connection to an existing fence post which lacks the plurality of slots **30** contained within the slotted member **15**, by means for affixing the slotted member **15** to the fence rail, the means for affixing comprising threaded screws (not shown), other fasteners (not shown), adhesive or a combination thereof.

As in the case of embodiments set forth in Figures 1, 2, 6, and 9, the frontal portion **15A** of the slotted member **15** in Figure 8 preferably includes a plurality of raised, reinforcement sub-portions **15L**, the plurality of raised, reinforcement sub-portions **15L** preferably being proximate an edge of the frontal portion **15A**, extending the length thereof and protruding therefrom. The plurality of raised, reinforcement sub-portions **15L** function not only to further strengthen and stabilize the slotted member **15**, but may

also contact a portion of the fence rail **25** engaged with the slotted member **15** thereby providing further stability to the connection with the fence rail **25**.

When used, the assembly of the present invention provides a convenient method for supporting and positioning one or more fence rails **25**, **25'**, **25''** (Fig. 1) at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation and at a user-selected, user-modifiable angle. With attention directed to Figure 1, the user first procures (1) at least one fence rail **25**, (2) a first adjustable fence rail supporting and positioning assembly having the slotted member **15** and at least one bracket member **20**, **20''** and (3) at least one additional fence rail supporting and positioning assembly having an additional slotted member **15'** and at least one additional bracket member **20'**, **20'''**. The user first positions and affixes the slotted member **15** of the first assembly in a generally vertical configuration such that the plurality of slots **30** along the length of the slotted member **15** of the first assembly are spaced at regular, generally vertical intervals. The user likewise positions and affixes the additional slotted member **15'** of the additional assembly in a generally vertical configuration at a user-selected distance from the slotted member **15** of the first assembly. When the slotted member **15** or the additional slotted member **15'** comprises a fence post or has already been affixed to a fence post, it is preferably positioned and affixed by inserting a lower portion of the fence post into the ground at a location where the user desires the fence post be retained. In circumstances where the slotted member **15** or the additional slotted member **15'** does not comprise a fence post or has not already been affixed to a fence post, said positioning and affixing step additionally requires that the

slotted member **15** be attached to said fence post, by threaded screws, other fasteners, adhesive, or a combination thereof.

In preferred practice, the user then inserts the first slot-engaging portion **20B** of the bracket member **20** of the first assembly in a first slot **30A** among the plurality of slots **30** of the slotted member **15** of the first assembly as best shown in Figures 2 and 9. The user also positions the fence rail **25** between the bracket member **20** and the slotted member **15** of the first assembly. The user then inserts the second slot-engaging portion **20C** of the bracket member **20** of the first assembly into a second slot **30B** among the plurality of slots **30** of the slotted member **15** of the first assembly while the first slot-engaging portion **20B** occupies the first slot **30A** of the slotted member **15** of the first assembly thereby clasping, supporting and positioning the fence rail **25** against the slotted member **15** of the first assembly at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation.

In preferred practice, the user then inserts an additional first slot-engaging portion **20B'** of the additional bracket member **20'** of the additional assembly into an additional first slot **30A'** among an additional plurality of slots **30'** of the additional slotted member **15'** of the additional assembly as best seen in Figure 1. The user also positions the fence rail **25** between the additional bracket member **20'** and the additional slotted member **15'** of the additional assembly. The user then inserts an additional second slot-engaging portion **20C'** of the additional bracket member **20'** of the additional assembly into an additional second slot **30B'** among the additional plurality of slots **30'** of the additional slotted member **15'** of the additional assembly while the additional first slot-engaging portion **20B'** occupies the additional first slot **30A'** of the additional slotted member **15'**

of the additional assembly thereby clasping, supporting and positioning the fence rail **25** against the additional slotted member **15'** of the additional assembly at a user-selected, user-modifiable elevation. It is to be understood that in the preferred embodiments of the assembly the bracket member **20** and all portions thereof are the same in structure, function and dimensions as the additional bracket member **20'** and all portions thereof. It is further to be understood that in the preferred embodiment of the assembly the slotted member **15** and all portions thereof are the same in structure, function and dimensions as the additional slotted member **15'** and all portions thereof.

The method set forth in the preceding two paragraphs may likewise be used to support and position one or more additional fence rails **25', 25''** against the slotted members **15, 15'** as seen in Figure 1. The method set forth in the preceding three paragraphs may likewise be used to support and position the fence rails **25, 25', 25''** against further additional slotted members (not shown). Moreover, because the bracket member **20** and the additional bracket member **20'** are detachably connected, respectively, to the slotted member **15** and to the additional slotted member **15'**, the user may modify both the elevation and the angle of the fence rail **25** by simply removing the second slot-engaging portion **20C, 20C'** and then the first slot-engaging portion **20B, 20B'** of the bracket member **20, 20'**, respectively, from the second slot **30B, 30B'** and the first slot **30A, 30A'** and by then re-clasping, re-supporting and re-positioning said fence rail **25** at a different (modified) user-selected elevation and angle following the procedure set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

5 The assembly and method of the present invention have particular utility when used in the formation wind fences and snow fences having fence rails 25, 25', 25'' of a generally uniform and preselected width. Porosity of such fences, being that percentage of the total area beneath a top 25A of a top fence rail 25 (Fig. 1) positioned and supported against the slotted member 15 and above a top surface 35 of the ground (including the earth, accumulated snow or other material) beneath said fence rail 25 (Fig. 1) where prevailing wind, or snow driven by prevailing wind encounters no fence rail 25, 25', 25'' is an important feature. Fences with too little porosity may be damaged or overturned, while fences with too much porosity provide an ineffective barrier and, consequently, ineffective wind or snow control.

10 In various preferred embodiments of the invention, like that shown in Figure 1, the plurality of slots 30 along the length of the slotted member 15 are accordingly spaced at a determined interval, the determined interval sized to space and configure the fence rail 25 clasped, supported and positioned against the slotted member 15 by the bracket member 20 at a determined, optimum distance from a closest, neighboring fence rail 25' clasped, supported and positioned against the slotted member 15 by a second bracket member 20''. The additional plurality of slots 30' along the length of the additional slotted member 15' are likewise spaced at the determined interval to space and configure the fence rail 25 clasped, supported and positioned against the additional slotted member 15' by the additional bracket member 20' at the determined, optimum distance from the closest, neighboring fence rail 25' clasped, supported and positioned against the additional slotted member 15' by an additional second bracket member 20'''.

In various preferred embodiments the determined interval between each of said plurality of slots **30** allows said fence rails **25**, **25'**, **25"** of generally uniform and preselected width to be easily configured, supported and positioned to form fences having a preferred porosity of at least 30 percent and but no more than 50 percent for wind fences and having a preferred porosity of at least 45 percent but no more than 50 percent for snow fences. For example, in an embodiment designed for use with fence rails having a width of 6 inches and to facilitate configuration of a fence with 50 percent porosity, the determined interval is sized to space and configure a portion of the fence rail **25** most proximate a closest, neighboring, fence rail **25'** at a 6 inch distance from a most proximate portion of the closest, neighboring fence rail **25'**. In a particular group of embodiments which may be used in the formation of either a wind fence or a snow fence, the determined interval between each of said plurality of slots **30** facilitates easy configuration of a fence having porosity of 35 percent, and alternative configuration of a fence having a porosity of 50 percent. Said plurality of slots **30** may be labeled, individually or collectively, to further assist the user in rapidly forming a fence of desired porosity.

The foregoing is considered as illustrative only of the principles of the invention. Further, since modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation shown and described, and, accordingly, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to, falling within the scope of the invention. The slotted member **15** and the bracket member **20** of the assembly are preferably formed of extruded metal. The materials used in

construction of the adjustable fence rail supporting and positioning assembly are aluminum, other metallic elements, metallic alloys, and polymers which provide strength, durability and rust resistance.